

Amendments To The Claims:

1-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for managing data in a source file wherein the source file data is described by an extensible markup language, the method comprising:

providing a source file described in an extensible markup language;

structuring the extensible markup language data in the source file in the form of objects, wherein components of the objects are stored in first files, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object;

providing a second file having a first mechanism for referencing the components as a higher-order, object-based logical level for storing; and selectively directly accessing the objects, ~~the foregoing~~ providing hierarchical structuring of object complexes and distribution of data of objects among a plurality of files, the hierarchical structuring of object complexes enabling to enable a reading-in tool to pass over or avoid having to read or process portions of the source file data organized as distinct objects when seeking other portions of the source file data for use in the application; and

providing the reading-in tool, wherein the reading-in tool passes over or avoids reading or processing portions of the source file data identifiable as distinct objects when seeking other portions of the source file data for use in the application.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the components are themselves objects.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the components are stored in object-specific generic containers, and wherein the containers are provided for referencing the respective object.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.

11 - 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the reading-in tool is a parser.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the parser is a XML-parser.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the reading-in tool passes over data beginning from a certain start tag up to the associated end tag.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein parts of objects are distributed among a plurality of files, wherein a core information necessary for identifying the object and its type is present in a source file and wherein the object's actual useful information is relocated to a relocation file.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein references to relocated objects contain an object identification data, data regarding a target file in which the object is located and object identification data in the target file.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the object identification data in the target file is an object ID and an object name.

21-23. (canceled)